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California Polytechnic State University

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**Quick Facts: What Is Internet2?**

Internet2 is a new private Internet system in the United States linking 180 member universities and colleges and 60 corporations at speeds light-years faster than offered on the commercial Internet.

Technically, Internet2 members have access to a percentage of "bandwidth" on existing fiber-optic cables spanning the globe. Those fiber-optic cables carry data broken up into bits of light. The transmissions are what users of the Internet see on their computers when they access the World Wide Web.

The Internet2 consortium members have paid to reserve a percentage of bandwidth for members on the world's fiber-optic cable network. That means heavy traffic on the commercial Internet will not slow transmissions, use, communications or other exchanges on Internet2. The guaranteed bandwidth space available for Internet2 members, plus new hardware and software developments, enable members to send and receive much bigger chunks of data or images at much faster speeds - speeds approaching "real time."

As an example, a graphics file the size of the movie "The Matrix" would take anywhere from six hours to seven days to download for most users on the current Internet, depending on their connection type. Internet2 users would be able to receive the same amount of graphics information in 39 seconds.

Cal Poly is now a member of Internet2 through CENIC, the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California. For more information on CENIC, visit their Web site at [www.cenic.org](http://www.cenic.org).

For more details on Internet2, visit the Internet2 Web site at [www.internet2.edu](http://www.internet2.edu).

For press information, including available video clips, visit <http://www.internet2.edu/html/infokit.html>.

- 30 -

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